

Supplemental Reason for Allowance

1. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: claims 4-7, 10-14, 20-23, 26, 27, 36-39, 42-46, 52-55, 58, 59, and 62 (renumbered as 1-30) are considered allowable since when reading the claims in light of the specification, as per MPEP §2111.01 or *Toro Co. v. White Consolidated Industries Inc.*, 199 F.3d 1295, 1301, 53 USPQ2d 1065, 1069 (Fed. Cir. 1999), none of the references of record alone or in combination disclose or suggest the combination of limitations specified in the independent claims, specifically when propagating a path from a source node in said first lattice to a destination node in said first lattice, said comparing step updates and propagates accumulative values stored in the storage areas associated with the source node to at least the storage areas associated with the destination node as disclosed in independent claims 4, 20, 36, and 52 of the instant application (as defined at pg. 22 of the specification of the instant application).
2. A practical application for the invention is disclosed on page 1: "spoken document retrieval systems which allow users to locate and retrieve the desired information from the database using a spoken query."

3. The claimed computer readable medium has been interpreted as being the tangible computer memory of the workstation (as disclosed at p. 7, line 2).

The Prior art of reference *Wang*, "Mandarin spoken document retrieval based on syllable lattice matching", 2000 discloses a lattice comparison method comprising: receiving first and second lattices of labels to be compared, each lattice defining alternative label sequences that represent a sequential signal and each lattice comprising a plurality of nodes each associated with one or more labels and representing a point in the sequential signal at which the associated label occurs and comparing the first lattice with the second lattice by propagating a plurality of paths, each path representing a comparison between labels in the first lattice and labels in the second lattice, and each path having an associated accumulative value representing the closeness of the comparison; wherein during the path propagation, said comparing step defines, for each node in the first lattice, a plurality of associated storage areas, each storage area associated with a first lattice node also being associated with a respective node in the second lattice and being operable to store, during the path

propagation, an accumulative value representing the closeness of the comparison between labels in the first lattice up to the associated first lattice node and labels in the second lattice up to the associated second lattice node.

Wang does not teach when propagating a path from a source node in said first lattice to a destination node in said first lattice, said comparing step updates and propagates accumulative values stored in the storage areas associated with the source node to at least the storage areas associated with the destination node.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

/Nathan H. Brown, Jr./

Examiner, Art Unit 2129

/David R Vincent/

Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 2129